THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power have drawn up a Rural Electrification Strategy for providing necessary rural electricity infrastructure in the.country so as to complete the task of household electrification in the next five years as stipulated in the National Common Minimum Programme. Besides household electrification, electricity is to be provided to public places like schools, panchayat offices, health centres, dispensaries, community centers, etc.

The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a programme for electrification of remote villages and hamlets in various States through non-conventional energy sources such as solar, biomass, mini-hydel, etc.

Requirement of Rs. 70,000 crore for financing projects

1382. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:
SHRI BALVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the renewable energy sector in India require Rs. 70,000 crore for financing various projects by 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the plan Government have to mobilize such huge resources;

(d) the details of projects under the schemes; and

(e) the benefit likely to be achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (d) The broad aim of this Ministry is to develop and deploy new and renewable sources of energy for supplementing the energy requirements of the country and add 10% additional grid interactive power generation capacity through renewables. This apart, provision of cooking, lighting and motive power in over 25000 remote unelectrified villages and hamlets has to be made. It has been estimated that the aforesaid two

major programmes would require around Rs. 50,000 crore investment in the country by 2012. The major contribution of around 90% is expected to come from private investment.

(e) Renewable energy can provide the basis for sustainable development on account of its inexhaustible nature and environment-friendly features and in the long-term would supplement conventional energy.

Protection to the Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant in flood situation

1383. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that floods have affected the production of power at the Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof with areas denied power due to stoppage of power production in the plant;

(c) the reasons why adequate steps were not taken to protect the plant in the wake of flood situation; and

(d) the steps taken to resume power production at the optimum level?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. However, the threat of an unprecedented flood affected the production of power at Nathpa Jhakri Power Plant in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) During August, 2004, a massive landslide has created a 'dam' and blocked the river Pareechu, a tributary to Spiti/Satluj River in Tibet in China and formed an artificial lake. Bursting of this 'dam' could cause a flash flood in Satluj Valley. As a precautionary measure, a red alert for the safety of the people and the Project was declared by Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh. Generation was stopped for about ten days due to possibility of flash floods and high content of silt in the river waters. Approximately 491 MU of generation was lost. Power from Nathpa Jhakri Project is supplied to northern grid comprising the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi which were denied their share of power from Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Electric Project during this period.